

1 CLAIMS

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3 1. A smart card comprising:

4 a key, associated with a household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media

5 content associated with the household; and

6 a memory unit, the memory unit including,

7 a user-specific information storage section to store user preferences,

8 and

9 a data storage section to store data that is expected to be of value to a

10 user.

11

12 2. A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the memory unit

13 comprises a nonvolatile memory.

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15 3. A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the data comprises

16 electronic money.

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18 4. A smart card as recited in claim 3, wherein the smart card can be used

19 to encrypt and decrypt media content only if at least a threshold amount of

20 electronic money is stored on the smart card.

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22 5. A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the smart card

23 corresponds to a particular category of media content and is used to encrypt and

24 decrypt only that particular category of media content.

25

1 6. A smart card as recited in claim 5, wherein one of the categories of
2 media content comprises family-oriented media content and another of the
3 categories of media content comprises adult-oriented media content.

4
5 7. A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the memory unit further
6 includes a rating associated with the smart card that is used to compare the rating
7 with a rating corresponding to the media content and determine, based on the
8 comparison, whether to allow access to the media content.

9
10 8. A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the smart card is used to
11 limit where rendering of the media content can occur.

12
13 9. A smart card comprising:
14 a key, associated with a household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media
15 content associated with the household; and
16 a data storage section to store data that is expected to be of value to a user.

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18 10. A smart card as recited in claim 9, further comprising a
19 communications module to communicate, to a computing device module that
20 encrypts media content, an indication of whether to encrypt the media content
21 based on data stored in the data storage section.

1 11. A smart card as recited in claim 9, further comprising a
2 communications module to communicate, to a computing device module that
3 decrypts media content, an indication of whether to decrypt the media content
4 based on data stored in the data storage section.

5
6 12. A smart card as recited in claim 9, further comprising a processor to
7 execute instructions to encrypt and decrypt the media content.

8
9 13. A smart card as recited in claim 9, wherein the data storage section
10 is maintained in a nonvolatile memory.

11
12 14. A smart card as recited in claim 9, further comprising a user-specific
13 information storage section to store user preferences.

14
15 15. A smart card as recited in claim 9, wherein the data in the data
16 storage section comprises electronic money.

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18 16. A method of encrypting media content, the method comprising:
19 checking whether a smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content;
20 and
21 encrypting the media content only if the smart card is authorized to encrypt
22 the media content.
23
24
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1 17. A method as recited in claim 16, further comprising determining
2 that the smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content if at least a threshold
3 amount of electronic money is available on the smart card.
4

5 18. A method as recited in claim 16, further comprising determining
6 that the smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content only if data is stored
7 on the smart card that is expected to be of value to a user.
8

9 19. A method as recited in claim 16, further comprising:
10 checking whether the smart card is authorized to decrypt media content;
11 and
12 decrypting the media content only if the smart card is authorized to decrypt
13 the media content.
14

15 20. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
16 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim
17 16.
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19 21. A method of decrypting media content, the method comprising:
20 checking whether a smart card is authorized to decrypt the media content;
21 and
22 decrypting the media content only if the smart card is authorized to decrypt
23 the media content.
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1 22. A method as recited in claim 21, further comprising determining
2 that the smart card is authorized to decrypt the media content if at least a threshold
3 amount of electronic money is available on the smart card.
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5 23. A method as recited in claim 21, further comprising determining
6 that the smart card is authorized to decrypt the media content only if data is stored
7 on the smart card that is expected to be of value to a user.
8

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9 24. A method as recited in claim 21, further comprising:
10 checking whether the smart card is authorized to encrypt media content;
11 and
12 encrypting the media content only if the smart card is authorized to encrypt
13 the media content.
14

15 25. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
16 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim
17 21.
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19 26. A system comprising:
20 a plurality of smart cards, each to be used for encrypting different
21 categories of media content; and
22 an encryption module coupled to receive media content and encrypt the
23 media content based on a key maintained on one of the plurality of smart cards.
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1 27. A system as recited in claim 26, further comprising a decoding
2 module, coupled to receive the encrypted media content, decrypt the encrypted
3 media content, decode the decrypted media content, and transmit the decoded
4 media content to a rendering module.
5

6 28. A system as recited in claim 26, wherein one of the categories of
7 media content comprises family-oriented media content and another of the
8 categories of media content comprises adult-oriented media content.
9

10 29. A method of allowing parental control over media content, the
11 method comprising:
12

13 receiving media content;

14 encrypting the received media content based on a household identifier
15 corresponding to a smart card; and
16

17 requiring the smart card to be present to decrypt and render the media
18 content.
19

20 30. A method as recited in claim 29, wherein the requiring comprises
21 requiring the smart card to be inserted into a smart card reader coupled to a
22 computing device that is decrypting the media content.
23

24 31. A method as recited in claim 29, further comprising using a plurality
25 of different smart cards to encrypt and decrypt media content, each of the plurality
of smart cards corresponding to a different category of media content.

1 **32.** A method as recited in claim 31, wherein one of the categories of
2 media content comprises family-oriented media content and another of the
3 categories of media content comprises adult-oriented media content.

4
5 **33.** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
6 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim
7 29.

8
9 **34.** A method of allowing parental control over media content, the
10 method comprising:

11 comparing a rating corresponding to the media content to a rating
12 associated with a smart card; and

13 allowing access to the media content if the rating corresponding to the
14 media content does not exceed the rating associated with the smart card.

15
16 **35.** A method as recited in claim 34, wherein the rating associated with
17 the smart card is stored on the smart card.

18
19 **36.** A method as recited in claim 34, wherein the allowing access
20 comprises allowing the media content to be decrypted for rendering.

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22 **37.** A method as recited in claim 34, wherein the allowing access
23 comprises allowing the media content to be encrypted for subsequent processing.
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1 38. One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a
2 computer program that, when executed by a computing device, causes the
3 computing device to perform acts including:

4 receiving media content;

5 controlling encryption of the received media content based on a household
6 identifier corresponding to a smart card; and

7 maintaining user preferences information on the smart card, the user
8 preferences information being available only when the smart card is coupled to the
9 computing device.
10

11 39. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 38,
12 wherein the smart card is coupled to the computing device when the smart card is
13 inserted into a smart card reader that is coupled to the computing device.
14

15 40. A smart card comprising:

16 a key, associated with a household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media
17 content associated with the household; and

18 a user-specific information storage section to store user preferences.
19

20 41. A smart card as recited in claim 40, further comprising a
21 communications module to communicate, to a computing device module that
22 encrypts media content, the user preferences stored in the user-specific
23 information storage section.
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1 42. A smart card as recited in claim 40, further comprising a processor
2 to manage the user-specific information storage section.

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4 43. A smart card as recited in claim 40, wherein the user-specific
5 information storage section is maintained in a nonvolatile memory.

6
7 44. A smart card as recited in claim 40, further comprising a data
8 storage section to store data that is expected to be of value to a user.

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10 45. A method comprising:
11 maintaining, on a smart card, information regarding a user's preferences
12 corresponding to media content; and
13 maintaining, on a smart card, a key to be used to encrypt and decrypt media
14 content associated with a household.

15
16 46. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
17 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim
18 45.

19
20 47. A method of identifying boundaries of a network of devices, the
21 method comprising:
22 encrypting media content based on an identifier corresponding to a plurality
23 of smart cards; and
24 limiting rendering of the media content to a network of devices to which
25 the plurality of smart cards are coupled.

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2 48. A method as recited in claim 47, wherein the network devices
3 include devices to receive media content and devices to render media content.

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5 49. A smart card as recited in claim 47, wherein one of the plurality of
6 smart cards is coupled to a device when the smart card is inserted into a smart card
7 reader coupled to the device.

8
9 50. A smart card as recited in claim 47, wherein the network of devices
10 is maintained within a single house.

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12 51. A smart card as recited in claim 47, wherein the plurality of smart
13 cards can be moved to different devices to alter the boundaries of the network.

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